

## **Agricultural Management: Infrastructure - Water Delivery**

- **Policy Guidance**
  - *Colorado Revised Statutes (irrigation ditch maintenance)*
    - *Maintenance to prevent flooding*
    - *Maintenance of bridge crossings*
  - *Open Space Long Range Management Policies*
    - *The Department will maintain the integrity of all water delivery and storage structures on its property and cooperate with the office of the State Engineer to the greatest extent possible to meet applicable requirements.*
    - *Alternative funding sources, including participation by other water users, ditch companies, and others, may be required where legally or financially appropriate and feasible.*
    - *The Open Space staff will work with ditch companies that have written easements and prescriptive uses on open space land to encourage maintenance practices that minimize damage to other resources.*
    - *Incorporate practices to maximize irrigation efficiency*
  - *OSMP Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan*
    - *Construct, repair, enhance and maintain irrigation delivery system*
- **Existing Conditions**
  - *Description of OSMP water portfolio*
  - *Description of existing infrastructure*
    - *A significant amount of maintenance on the water delivery system has been deferred.*
    - *Summary of most recent infrastructure needs assessment*
      - *Functional*
      - *Functional, in need of repair*
        - *Immediate needs*
      - *Non-functional, in need of repair*
        - *immediate needs*
  - *Natural resource value of irrigation infrastructure*
  - *Maintenance of existing infrastructure*
    - *Process*
    - *Costs*
- **Objective(s)**
  - *Maintain existing irrigation infrastructure in good condition as required by the Colorado Revised Statutes.*
  - *Provide the infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of a diversity of agricultural operations.*
  - *Ensure the water delivery system infrastructure and associated maintenance is compatible with natural resource objectives.*

- **Management Strategies**
  - *Maintain a regularly updated inventory of irrigation infrastructure that includes location and conditions information (tracking database).*
  - *Partner with lessees to provide and maintain infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of their agricultural operations.*
  - *Develop and implement irrigation infrastructure Best Management Practices for water delivery infrastructure maintenance and construction.*
  - *Develop criteria to prioritize current and future infrastructure needs.*
  - *Evaluate water management opportunities and resource enhancement potential.*
    - *Environmental Water Sharing Feasibility study in progress*
- **Measures of Success**
  - *Percent of irrigation infrastructure in good condition as defined by the Colorado Revised Statutes.*
  - *Proportion of operations for which the necessary irrigation infrastructure is currently available.*
  - *Proportion of irrigation infrastructure maintenance sites in compliance with departmental Best Management Practices.*
- **Estimated Cost(s)**
  - *\$\$\$\$\$*
    - *More than \$500,000 to address back log of irrigation infrastructure improvements.*
    - *Preliminary estimates based on currently identified infrastructure needs are approximately \$650,000.*